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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE

General

1. There was practically no wartime damage in Kherson. Part of the prison was blown up and one smokestack of the Stalin Food Processing Plant was hit by a stray shell. Also, a theater was blown up by a German booby trap shortly after the German retreat.
2. There has not been much postwar construction in Kherson. The River Transportation Passenger Station (Rechnoy Voksal) was built in 1949. Some new warehouses have been built on the waterfront. Construction of a technical school was completed in 1950-1951, and the Maritime School (Kherson Morskoy i Rechnoy Tekhnikum) has been renovated.
3. Low, flat-roofed, white stuccoed buildings are characteristic of the downtown area of Kherson. There are no wooden houses at all; in the outskirts the houses are of stone, clay, straw, etc. The best apartment houses are located in the last block on Suvorova Street before that street reaches Prospekt Ushakova and on Gorkogogo Street between Torgovaya and 9-go Sichrya Streets. There is a group of red brick buildings behind the bazaar on Prospekt Ushakova.
4. The streets of Kherson are either unpaved or have cobblestones. The streets are very dirty. Suvorova Street has asphalt sidewalks; all other streets have sidewalks of dirt or of stone slabs. In addition to Suvorova Street, the main street, other important streets in Kherson are Kommunarova Street, Zhovtnevoy Revolyutsii Street, 9-go Yanvaryia Street, Lenin Street, and Prospekt Ushakova which leads to the Nikolayev road. Up to the point where Prospekt Ushakova reaches the cemetery, it is a divided street with young trees planted down the center.
5. There are street lights on the main streets of Kherson. There are practically

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none on other streets. The section of Suvorova Street between Prospekt Ushakova and Kommunarova Street is lighted by neon (sic) street lights. On most streets, house numbers are even on one side and odd on the other. Dead-end streets are an exception; house numbers run consecutively on dead-end streets. All telephone poles are numbered.

6. The main entrance to Lenin Park is on the corner of Prospekt Ushakova and Kirova Street. There are several other entrances from various sides of the park. The park is surrounded by a metal fence. Admission to the park is usually free of charge, although a 60-kopek entrance fee is charged when there is music or dancing in the park. There is dancing on Saturday and Sunday nights during the summer. The movie theater in the park is open only in summer. The park itself is fairly new; most of the trees are about 20 to 25 years old. At the center of the park there is an extremely old oak tree surrounded by benches. There is a statue of Lenin near the main entrance and various other statues and busts are scattered throughout the park, including several more of Lenin.

Economic

7. Only produce is supposed to be sold in the market place, but there is always a brisk business in clothing and other items. On Wednesdays and Fridays there is usually a used-goods market (tolkuchka) near the railroad station.
8. Belomor cigarettes are the most commonly smoked in Kherson. Pobeda and Zvezdachka wristwatches are worn. Ball-point pens and mechanical pencils are also available.

Transportation

9. The main railroad station in Kherson is a one-story gray stucco building. In recent years, trains have run close to schedule. It is not difficult to obtain tickets, especially if the traveller is willing to pay a little extra as a bribe. See sketch of the main railroad station on page 4. Another railroad station is being built near the river in Kherson.
10. All taxis in Kherson are Pobeda automobiles. They are two-tone in color, light and dark gray with a dividing stripe. They are metered cabs. Taxis are almost exclusively used by Party and administration officials. There are usually some taxis parked on Suvorova Street near the River Transportation Passenger Station.
11. During the summer, motor boats travel between the River Transportation Passenger Station and the bathing beach every half hour. The fare is 40 kopeks. Motor boats also leave from Kherson every hour to Aleshki. A person wishing to go a short distance up or down the river can always find a sailboat which will transport him for a fee.
12. The most successful way to hitchhike is to purchase a bottle of vodka and to hold it high in the air when a vehicle is approaching.

Entertainment

13. The Spartak and the Komintern are the main movie houses in Kherson. Showings are at 1900 and 2100 hours daily. Each theater has buffet in the lobby. The Komintern has a small jazz band which plays before and between performances. Klub Vodnikov also shows films occasionally and sometimes has dancing.

Electricity and Communications

14. The current in Kherson is 220-volt alternating current. The electricity tends to be somewhat erratic, with the lights growing dim at times. There are some restrictions on the amount of electricity available to consumers, but source does not know what the restrictions are.

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15. only one person in ten in Kherson has a radio receiver. All receivers must be registered. Stores called Elektro-Radio Tekhnicheskkiye Magaziny sell various radio parts to amateurs. It is very easy to obtain dry and wet-cell batteries, especially the latter.

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16. Private telephones are very rare in Kherson. All telephone owners have phone books.
17. A letter sent by regular mail would take four days to go from Kherson to Kiev.

Health and Medicine

18. Doctors are often bribed by workers who wish to obtain medical releases from their jobs. Persons frequently simulate illness to obtain a release from work.
19. Following are some medical men in Kherson:

Bulakh (fnu), chief of the oblast health office (oblzdrav)
 Paremina (fnu), chief of the city health office (gorzdrav).
 Yurzhenko (fnu), chief surgeon at the oblast hospital
 Malt (fnu), a stomatologist
 Kamenskiy (fnu), a doctor

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Newspapers

21. Moscow and Kiev papers are sold in the Kherson kiosks. Nadnepriyanskaya Pravda is the local oblast newspaper. Its editor is Reznichenko (fnu).

Communist Party

22. The secretary of the Oblast Party Committee (obkompartii) is Onishchenko (fnu). The secretary of the City Party Committee (gorkompartii) is Emits (fnu).

New Workers' Settlement

23. There is a new workers' settlement located between the Kherson railroad station and the section of the city known as Zabalka. Zabalka is an underworld hangout. No one goes to Zabalka after dark for fear of being assaulted and robbed. Even militiamen avoid this area.

Militia

24. The city militiamen and the railroad militiamen in Kherson dress about the same. The only differences are that the former have no swords or spurs and the shape of the pants differs. The color of the pants, however, is the same in each case. The railroad militiamen wear dark pants with raspberry-colored piping and dark blouse, in summer a white blouse. The cap is raspberry color as are the shoulderboards which have a black stripe; cording hangs from the shoulderboard. The railroad militiamen also wear a dark leather belt, black leather boots, and in the summer white gloves. They carry Nagant pistols on the right hip.
25. The railroad militia guards the railroad station and the railroad tracks. They ride in baggage cars on the trains. The city militia in Kherson takes little action against speculation.

Air Activity

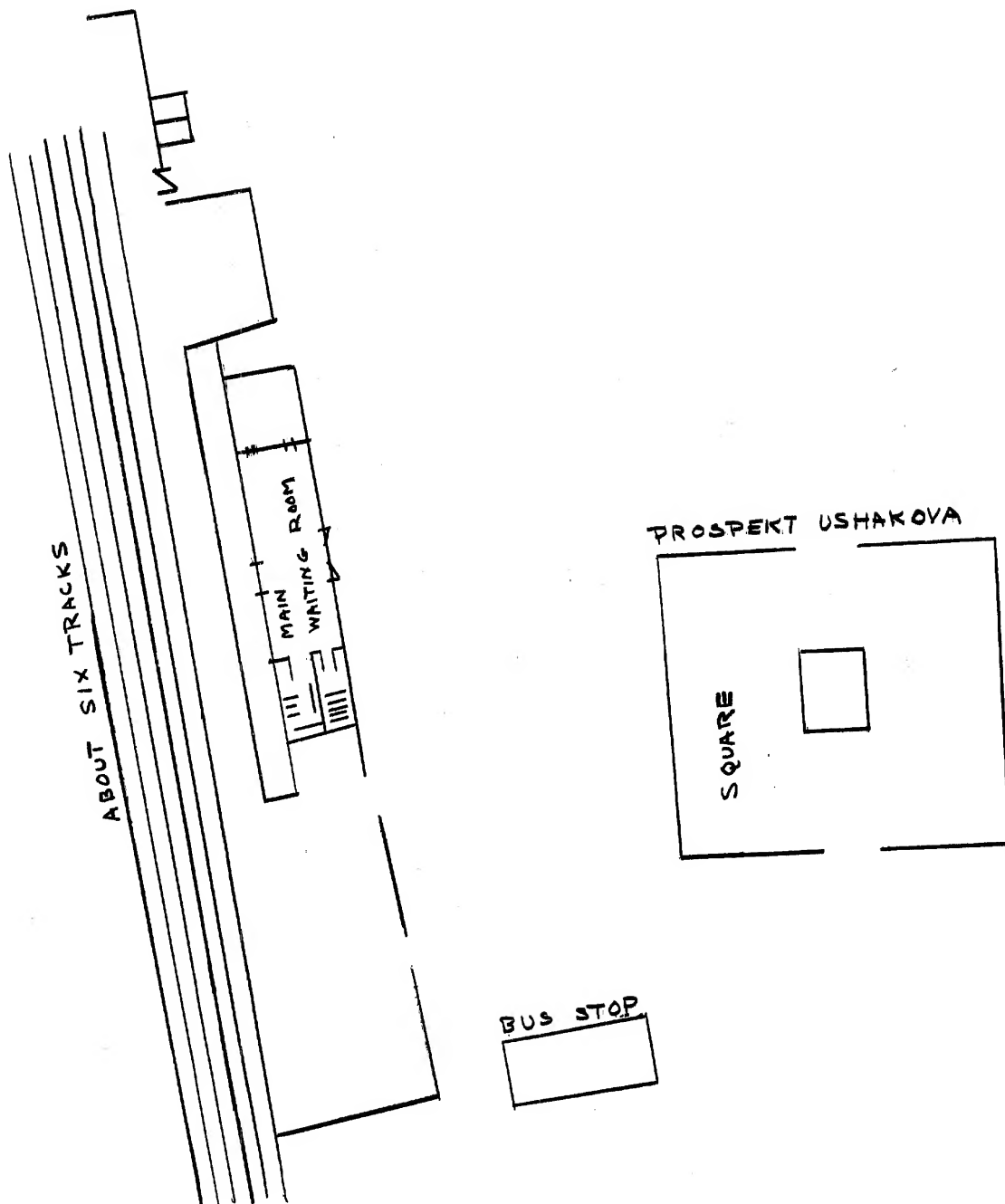
26. Jet planes can be observed in the skies over Kherson throughout the day. Source believes the planes are based at the airfield near the railroad station.

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Sketch of Main Railroad Station at Kherson



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